21. (Amended)   A device for securing passwords and personal identification numbers comprising:

a generator for creating a MasterCode having a subset of characters randomly drawn from a character set which includes numbers, symbols and alphabet characters;

means for embedding the MasterCode in a MasterGrid;

a translator for translating the MasterCode into a numeric sequence to form numeric representations of the characters; and

assigning the numeric representations to the character sequence of passwords which may be given to the user, generated by the process or chosen by him.

32.   (Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the relationship of the data to the other typographical symbols includes tracing out said graphical image as a pattern in sequence and placing typographical symbols from said data in cells of a grid corresponding to the graphical image.

Please add new claims as follows:

43. (New) A method for accessing an apparatus using a password comprising the steps of:

masking said password in a graphical image; and

re-constructing said password using said graphical image.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said graphical image comprises a plurality of cells and said masking step includes selecting a subset of said cells for masking said password.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said selected subset forms a pattern.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said re-constructing step includes re-selecting said subset in said graphical image.

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47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said subset is selected in a predetermined sequence.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said re-constructing step includes re-selecting said subset in said predetermined sequence.

49. (New) A secure device for allowing access using a password, the apparatus comprising:

means for masking said password in a graphical image;

means for displaying said graphical image; and

means for accepting the re-construction of said password using the graphical image.

50. (New) The secure device of claim 49, wherein said graphical image comprises a plurality of cells and said masking means accepts a selection of a subset of said cells for masking said password.

51. (New) The secure device of claim 50, wherein said selected subset forms a pattern.

52. (New) The secure device of claim 50, wherein said re-construction includes re-selecting said subset in said graphical image.

53. (New) The secure device of claim 50, wherein said subset is selected in a predetermined sequence.

54. (New) The secure device of claim 53, wherein said re-construction includes re-selecting said subset in said predetermined sequence.

55. (New) The secure device of claim 54, wherein said accepting means rejects said re-construction if said re-construction does not trace said predetermined sequence.